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FAX NO. 7038387684

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In the Drawings:

None

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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 10/4/2004. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Parker (USP 6603755).

Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker in view of Shaffer et al. (USP 6111106).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The present invention provides for a multimedia signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of communication service units and a control means. Each communication service unit has a plurality of types of signal processing modes corresponding to a plurality of types of communication service classifications and the control means controls the number of assigning of said communication service units, based on the number of call for a specific communication service classification, by changing signal processing mode of one or more of communication service units to a mode suitable for said communication service classification.

The presently claimed invention also provides for a multimedia signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of communication service units, a communication service

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classification identifying means, and mode control means. Each communication service unit has a plurality of types of signal processing modes corresponding to a plurality of types of communication service classifications, wherein the communication service classification identifying means identifies, on the basis of signal processing request information on one call communicated, a communication service classification for the call. The mode control means controls a signal processing mode of said communication service unit which has set the other signal processing mode to a mode suitable for the communication service classification identified in said communication service classification identifying means based on the number of calls for a communication service classification identified by said communication service classification identifying means.

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended for classification purposes without adding new material. Claim 9 has been newly added via the current amendment without adding new material. Support for newly added claim 9 can be found in previously filed claim 1 and pages 5-9 of the application-as-filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Parker (USP 6,603,755), hereafter Parker. To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), each and every element of the claims must be disclosed in a single cited reference. The applicant, however, contends that the presently claimed invention cannot be anticipated in view of the Parker reference.

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The examiner cites figures 7-8 and column 2, line 40 – column 3, line 21 of the Parker reference as providing all the limitations of independent claim 1. A closer reading of the citations and the Parker reference in its entirety merely teach an improved mobile terminal and computer program product/method for improving the selection of a communication service provider in a multi-mode environment. Specifically, the Parker reference teaches a method of selecting a communication service provider in a multi-mode environment, wherein the method comprises the steps of: selecting a first service provider, classifying the selected service provider, selecting an alternate service provider for an alternate communication mode, and ranking communication modes and assigning a highest ranking to a communication mode that was last established.

Independent claims 1 and 9, on the other hand, teach a multimedia apparatus having communication service units equipped with a plurality of types of signal processing modes corresponding to a plurality of types of communication service classifications. Specifically, claim 1 teaches a mode control means for controlling a signal processing mode of a communication service unit which has been set to another signal processing mode to a mode suitable for the communication service classification identified in the communication service classification identification means based on the number of calls for a communication service classification identified by the communication service classification identifying means, a teaching that is conspicuously absent in the Parker reference. Applicants further contend that the Parker reference fails to render obvious independent claim 1's limitation of the mode control means.

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Additionally, claim 9 teaches a control means to control the number of assigning of said communication service units, based on the number of calls for a specific communication service classification, by changing signal processing mode of one or more of communication service units to a mode suitable for said communication service classification, another limitation that is conspicuously absent in the Parker reference. Applicants further contend that the Parker reference fails to render obvious independent claim 9's limitation of the control means.

Hence, applicants contend that independent claims 1 and 9 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Parker reference.

Applicants wish to state that the arguments presented above with respect to independent claims 1 and 9 substantially apply to dependent claims 2 and 5-6 as they inherit the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Hence, applicants contend that dependent claims 2 and 5-6 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Parker reference.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker in view of Shaffer et al. (USP 5,119,006). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), each and every element of the claims must be addressed through known prior art or be recognized as an obvious variation thereof. Applicants contend that the combination of the Parker and Shaffer references fail to provide many of the limitations of applicants' pending claims.

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It should be noted that the above mentioned arguments with respect to independent claim 1 and the Parker reference substantially apply to dependent claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 as they inherit the limitations of independent claim 1.

The examiner cites column 2, line 38 – column 3, line 16 of the Shaffer reference in combination with the Parker reference as providing the limitations of claims 3, 4, 7, and 8. A closer reading of the citations and the Shaffer reference in its entirety merely teach a system and method wherein a user's access pattern is accounted for in a decision to switch between a private and a public network. Specifically, Shaffer's method teaches the steps of compiling a database of past time location associations within a first and second overlapping region, detecting if a wireless device is located within the overlapping region, predicting a future location of the wireless device, and transferring to another communication network in the overlapping region based on the prediction. Shaffer in combination with Parker, however, fails to teach a mode control means (with the limitation of claim 1) with the additional limitation of a prediction type mode control section for predictively controlling the signal processing mode of the communication service unit on the basis of history information.

Applicants therefore contend that the Shaffer and Parker references fail to render obvious many limitations of dependent claim 3.

Applicants wish to state that the arguments presented above with respect to dependent claim 3 substantially apply to dependent claims 4 and 7-8 as they inherit the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Hence, applicants contend that dependent claims 4 and 7-8 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the combination of Shaffer and Parker references.

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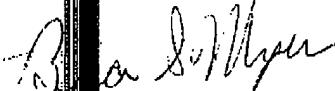
SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicant's presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed with an Extension of Time for one month. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to change the petition fee, as well as any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 50-290.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



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